Criminal Writ Petition No. 723/2000, the Commissioner of Police, Delhi has directed all SHOs of each and every Police Station to keep a record of Senior Citizens residing within their jurisdiction and provide adequate security to the life and property of such citizens.

(d) As reported by the Office of the Commissioner of Police, Delhi they have already started the work of collecting and maintaining a record of senior citizens residing within the jurisdiction of every Station House Officer (SHO) and that it is an ongoing process.

Increase in percentage of reservation for SCs

2485. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating enhancing the percentage of reservation to Scheduled Castes in the country in educational institutions and for employment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has requested the Central Government to consider increasing of percentage of reservation in services and educational institutions for SCs/STs. This matter is under consideration. As this is a policy matter and will require wide ranging discussion, no time frame can be given for deciding the matter.

Goods train carrying cows and calves for slaughter

2486. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in Rashtriya Sahara, dated 29th December, 2000 to the effect that 600 cows and calves being taken

away in a goods train for slaughter were got released at the Ghaziabad station; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far, by Government in the said matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry is aware of this news-item. We have requested the Railway Board to ban the transportation of cattle by the Railways completely as it causes cruelty to animals due to violation of rules by the transporters by faking documents in the name of milch cattle while transporting them for the purpose of slaughter in over-crowded wagons without adequate feeding, water and rest.

Guidelines for disposal of pending cases of old people

† 2487. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the welfare schemes formulated by Government so far for senior citizens of the country;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) whether Government also propose to issue guidelines to the courts under this scheme to expedite the disposal of cases of the old people pending for the last many years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing two Centrally Sponsored Schemes namely (i) An Integrated Programme for Older Persons and (ii) Scheme of Assistance to Panchayat Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organizations/Self Help Groups for construction of old age homes/multi service centres for older persons. The Ministry of Rural Development is also implementing schemes namely (iii) National Old

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.